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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

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AVNLF Representative Received by Polish Premier

SVNLF representative in Warsaw, Tran Van Tu, met with Polish Premier Cyrankiewicz on 16 February, according to a Polish announcement cited by Reuters. No details of the meeting were made public. [redacted]

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COMMENT: Warsaw radio made a similarly uninformative announcement on 15 February that Tran Van Tu had met with Foreign Minister Rapacki three days earlier. Until now, this had been the highest level Polish contact with Tu, who is accredited only to the regime's National Unity Front, a mass organization, and not to the government.

In the two weeks since the Vietcong offensive in South Vietnam, the Polish press has given front page treatment to the "heroic" VC actions, and almost daily meetings of SVNLF representatives with various Polish groups have been dutifully reported. It is possible that Tu's progress up the ladder of Polish officialdom is in line with this propaganda, and that it may lead to an enhancement of the SVNLF's status in Warsaw.

If this is so, however, it is curious that the details of Tu's meetings with both Rapacki and Cyrankiewicz have not been publicized. Equally curious is the reference in the 15 February issue of the party daily, Trybuna Ludu to the SVNLF as the "main political representative" and not the "sole genuine representative" of the South Vietnamese people, as has been the case hitherto. [redacted]

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Possible Breakthrough in US-Hungarian Claims Negotiations

The Embassy in Budapest thinks that the Hungarians may be receptive to a new US initiative toward settlement of financial claims, if the US acts quickly enough. The Hungarians may now be receptive to an overall solution of financial claims, an approach which would sidestep the case-by-case wranglings which bogged down past attempts to reach agreements. [redacted]

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COMMENT: Even if no settlement is reached during the next round of negotiations, the change in approach alone would represent an important advance. Hungary's apparent willingness to talk about claims is part of its low key effort to improve relations.

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First Austro-Hungarian Commission Meeting Results Promising

The first meeting of the Austrian-Hungarian Joint Commission was held during the week of 22-26 January in Vienna. The primary results of this encounter were positive recommendations for greater cooperation in the future. Recommendations in the field of tourism included a call for intensification of tourist trade cooperation, coordination of plans for a new border crossing station at Rechnitz, and an agreement on the priority nature of constructing a Vienna-Budapest and Vienna-Lake Balaton highway complex. Advances made in the cultural field included the appointment of an Austrian cultural attache in Budapest, increased impetus given to a proposed scientific-technical cooperation agreement and discussion of the construction of an Austrian Cultural Institute in Budapest.

29 Jan)

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Tito Sends Kardelj to East Africa

Edvard Kardelj, member of the Yugoslav Council of the Federation, will visit the Sudan, Tanzania, Zambia, Uganda and Kenya as President Tito's personal envoy, according to a 15 February Belgrade broadcast. No date was given for the trip.

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COMMENT: Kardelj who is Tito's closest advisor, is reportedly making the trip to "exchange views on current African and International problems" and will most certainly use the opportunity to sound out his hosts' feelings toward the possible calling of a Conference of Non-Aligned Nations. Since Tito's early February Cairo visit, the Yugoslav's have repeatedly referred to the possibility of convening such a conference to consider the prospects of blocking--through joint action--"the plans of international reaction." While the United States might be substituted for "international reaction," this conference could also be Tito's answer to the Budapest conclave.

East Germans Attempt to Justify Olympic Scandal

The East German news agency ADN reported on 14 February that Manfred Ewald, the vice-president of the GDR Olympic Committee, had described the ouster of three East German women from the Olympic competition as a "renewed provocation of Bonn" and a "unique violation of the Olympic charter." He stated that proof that the West Germans had taken the initiative was found in the fact that they attempted to have the entire GDR team disqualified. The West Germans were motivated to set this "conspiracy" in motion, he said, so that

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they could "obtain Olympic medals for their own team at a conference table."

Speaking in Berlin on 15 February, East German boss 25X1  
Walter Ulbricht seconded Ewald's comments by describing the  
West German action as a "massive cold war against GDR sports-  
men and sportswomen." [redacted]

COMMENT: The East German reaction was to be expected;  
the only noteworthy aspect of this defense is that Ulbricht  
apparently tried a pun.

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